

From: Douglas Terborg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am writing to voice my disagreement with the Microsoft antitrust settlement. Now that Microsoft has been declared a monopoly, it appears that once again, the USDOJ will be behaving in the same milksop manner they did when trying to take Microsoft to task over the MS Office product some years ago. Much money and time was wasted in the effort (which had many valid points) only to welsh on truly punishing Microsoft. I mean, if Microsoft is really a monopoly, and if the government has spent so much of my tax dollars, and of their time in proving it, shouldn't there actually be a punishment?

For argument, if I have a son who can't play fair with others, should I just always say "No, No, Johnny", and eventually teach him that disobedience is okay because his punishment is nothing more than hearing someone tell him "No"? Perhaps I should take away Johnny's favorite toy for awhile, and teach him that not doing the right thing has a consequence he doesn't like, giving him a chance to learn. I demand, as someone whose tax dollars went into this process, that you handle this matter in a matter that actually teaches Microsoft that anticompetitive practices get punished. Should you fail to do so, you not only allow their company to behave like the allegorical little Johnny, but once again, the public sees you as a toothless tiger that has no hope of bringing down the prey it chases.

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